

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of)
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AZUMA et al.)
)
Application Number: To be assigned)
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Filed: Concurrently Herewith)
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For: STORAGE DEVICE AND STORAGE SYSTEM)
)
Attorney Docket No. TSUT.0103)

**Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicant has amended the claims to eliminate the multiple dependent claims. Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows: